Transition List

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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November 10, 1980

TO: S/S - Mr. Tarnoff

FROM: NEA - Peter D. Constable, Acting

SUBJECT: List of Issues for Transition Briefing Papers

Attached is the list of foreign policy and national security subjects which NEA believes the new Administration will have to address during its first three months in office. We did not attempt to put the subjects in priority order.

Attachment:

List of Transition Subjects

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 6/7/83
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
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MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Autonomy Negotiations -- The new Administration will need to decide how to proceed with the West Bank/Gaza autonomy negotiations including issues of the US role, timing, and staffing.

Meeting with Prime Minister Begin -- It is virtually certain that Begin will press hard for a meeting with the President soon after his inauguration to outline his views on the peace process and the autonomy negotiations before the new Administration's policy crystallizes. In addition the Israeli election campaign will get underway in the Spring, and Begin will want to demonstrate to the Israeli public the continuity of U.S.-Israeli relations symbolized by an early meeting with the President.

Sadat Visit -- Whether or not a Summit is held, Sadat is likely to request a meeting with President Reagan early in his Administration.

Negotiations for Sinai Security Arrangements -- It was agreed in September 1979 that the Foreign Ministers of Israel, Egypt and the U.S. would meet in April 1981 to arrange for a United Nations or acceptable alternative multinational force to carry out the functions set forth in Annex I of the Egyptian - Israeli Treaty after April 1982. This force would replace the Sinai Field mission which is monitoring compliance with the Treaty's provisions relating to all of Sinai and a narrow buffer zone on Israel's side of the international border.

Palestinians -- The new Administration will need to consider what posture it will adopt regarding the PLO and U.S. official contacts with that organization. Decisions will be required on immediate operational matters such as how travel and visa requests are managed. Official statements about the U.S. perception of the PLO and its role in the Palestinian movement will require early and high-level attention.

EC Initiative -- US efforts in the Middle East in coming months must be adjusted to take into account an EC Middle East initiative.

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IRAN-IRAQ WAR

Military Supply -- The new Adminstration will continue to be faced with the issue of US and allied military supply to Iran and Iraq.

Resolution -- The US must continue to explore and support various multilateral initiatives to end the Iran-Iraq war. Should the fighting cease, diplomatic efforts to resolve the underlying causes of the conflict will be needed.

SOUTHEAST ASIA SECURITY FRAMEWORK

In the coming months the new Administration will be faced with numerous decisions in connection with aspects of our Southwest Asia Security Framework policy, including the RDJTF, facilities agreements, defense coordination in the Gulf, Security Assistance enhancement, coordination with NATO and other allies.

ECONOMIC ISSUES

OPEC Aid -- The U.S. will need to continue its efforts with other developed countries to encourage more foreign assistance by Arab oil producers, particularly through greater participation in international financial institutions in upcoming negotiations.

Oil -- The new administration must examine the effects of the Iran/Iraq conflict and December OPEC decisions on oil supply and the international economy, including the stability of the dollar.

IRAN

Hostage crisis -- Efforts to negotiate the release of the hostages could still be underway on January 20.

Future Negotiations -- Once the hostages are released, and in the context of the state of the Iraq-Iran conflict we will need to determine the nature of our future relationship with Iran.

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EGYPT

Ras Banas -- Differing Congressional and Egyptian views on a Ras Banas access agreement, including funding of facilities improvements, must be reconciled.

Military Assistance -- The new Administration will need to respond to Sadat's request for higher levels, better terms, and accelerated deliveries of military assistance.

F-5 Production -- A request for co-production of F-5E/F/G is pending decision.

SAUDI ARABIA AND THE SMALLER GULF STATES

Arms requests -- The new Administration will need to address early on arms requests from the Gulf states, particularly the Saudi pressure for F-15 enhancement items.

Military Access and coordination -- In the coming months we need to develop operational aspects of our military access arrangement with Oman, secure continuing and possibly increased access to Bahraini facilities for MIDEASTFOR, and set the future course of US-Saudi bilateral defense cooperation efforts.

IRAQ

Equipment Sales -- Decisions on civil aircraft sales to Iraq (the licenses for Boeing to export two 747 and three 727 aircraft), and on releasing to the Italians the remaining frigate engine cores for the ships they are building for the Iraqis may still be pending.

Nuclear Issues -- The Administration may have to decide what to do should an end to Iraq-Iran hostilities raise the issue of the return of French and Italian technicians to the Iraqi nuclear facility.

PAKISTAN

Bilateral Assistance -- The level and mix of assistance to Pakistan in FY-82 requires review. If the Administration decides to provide any aid under the Foreign Assistance Act, Congress must deal with the present restrictions contained in the Symington and Glenn Amendments.

Security Concerns -- Increased Soviet military and/or political pressure could require action to bolster Pakistan against the threat posed by Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

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INDIA

Fuel for Tarapur -- The new Administration may want to commission a study on the problem of nuclear fuel for India's Tarapur reactors. Specifically, the Administration will have to address the question of whether to continue our nuclear cooperation relationship with India or to disengage amicably from that relationship.

LEBANON

Threats to Government Stability -- The Administration will quickly face decisions about challenges to the Lebanese Government, probably from the Phalange Christian forces, and to Lebanon's territorial integrity from likely Israeli raids against Palestinian targets in Lebanon. A major crisis in Lebanon resulting from resumption of serious fighting among the factions there may occur within the next six months.

JORDAN

M60A3 Tank Sale -- We have a pending request for 100 tanks from Jordan. The presently planned phase-out of the M60 production line will require that we begin Congressional notification as soon as the Congress reconvenes in January or forfeit the opportunity to go forward with the sale.

MOROCCO AND ALGERIA

Western Sahara -- The new Administration will need to continue to develop and refine a U.S. diplomatic strategy for ending the Western Sahara conflict that takes into account our bilateral relations with both Morocco and Algeria.

Arms Sales to Morocco -- While decisions on the specific issues of the M-60 tanks sale and OV-10 aircraft delivery will have been made before January 20, we expect continued Congressional interest in our overall arms sales policy on Morocco.

TUNISIA

Economic and Military Assistance -- This moderate government, concerned with Libyan efforts to undermine its stability, will be looking for an early decision on increased FMS and economic aid.

LIBYA

We will face a number of possible problems--incidents arising from the February Sixth Fleet exercises north of the Libyan coast, incidents arising from reconnaisance flights, recurrence of the Libyan assassination campaign against its own students in this country, and the question of whether to reopen our Embassy in Tripoli.